

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A method for content filtering, comprising:  
2 receiving a request for content from a client computer, where  
3 said request includes a port number assigned to an application  
4 program running on said client computer;  
5 determining that said port number is a predetermined port  
6 number associated with a request for content;  
7 renumbering said request with a new port number;  
8 transmitting said request with said new port number to a content  
9 filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on said new port  
10 number; and  
11 obtaining from said content filtering server an indication of  
12 whether said content is restricted based on said request and said new  
13 port number.
- 1 2. The method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said renumbering  
2 comprises:  
3 determining a user of said client computer's filtering privilege;  
4 and  
5 changing said request with said new port number based on said  
6 filtering privilege.
- 1 3. The method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said obtaining  
2 further comprises receiving said requested content, thereby indicating that  
3 said content is not restricted.
- 1 4. The method for content filtering of claim 3, further comprising  
2 transmitting said content to said client computer.
- 1 5. The method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said obtaining  
2 further comprises receiving a notification that said content is blocked.

1 6. The method for content filtering of claim 5, further comprising notifying  
2 said client computer that said content is blocked.

1 7. The method for content filtering of claim 5, further comprising:  
2 receiving login details from said client computer;  
3 authenticating a user of said client computer based on said  
4 login details;  
5 determining said user's filter privileges based on said login  
6 details;  
7 ascertaining an additional port number based on said filter  
8 privileges;  
9 renumbering said request with said additional port number;  
10 transmitting said request with said additional port number to a  
11 content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on said  
12 additional port number; and  
13 acquiring from said content filtering server an indication of  
14 whether said content is restricted based on said request and said  
15 additional port number.

1 8. The method for content filtering of claim 7, wherein said acquiring  
2 further comprises receiving said requested content indicating that said  
3 content is not restricted.

1 9. The method for content filtering of claim 7, wherein said acquiring  
2 further comprises receiving a notification that said content is blocked.

1 10. The method for content filtering of claim 7, further comprising  
2 associating said login details with an Internet Protocol (IP) address of said  
3 client computer, such that said method for content filtering applies only to a  
4 particular client computer.

- 1 11. The method for content filtering of claim 1, further comprising, after  
2 said receiving, determining an Internet Protocol (IP) address of said client  
3 computer, such that said method for content filtering applies only to a  
4 particular client computer.
- 1 12. The method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said determining  
2 further comprises ascertaining that said port number is TCP (Transmission  
3 Control Protocol) port 80.
- 1 13. The method for content filtering of claim 7, wherein said ascertaining  
2 further comprises specifying said new port number to be an arbitrary and  
3 rarely used port number.
- 1 14. A content filtering gateway, comprising:  
2 a Central Processing Unit (CPU);  
3 communications circuitry; and  
4 input/output ports; and  
5 a memory containing:  
6 an operating system;  
7 a port sniffer;  
8 a database of filtering privileges and associated  
9 rarely used port numbers; and  
10 filtering procedures comprising:  
11 instructions for receiving a request for content  
12 from a client computer, where said request includes a  
13 port number assigned to an application program running  
14 on said client computer;  
15 instructions for determining that said port number  
16 is a predetermined port number associated with a  
17 request for content;  
18 instructions for renumbering said request with one  
19 of said rarely used port numbers;

20 instructions for transmitting said request with said  
 21 one of said rarely used port numbers to a content filtering  
 22 server that is configured to listen for requests on said  
 23 new port number; and  
 24 instructions for obtaining from said content filtering  
 25 server an indication of whether said content is restricted  
 26 based on said request and said one of said rarely used  
 27 port numbers.

1 15. The content filtering gateway of claim 14, wherein said memory further  
 2 comprises a filtering database containing a filtering database of Internet  
 3 Protocol (IP) addresses and their associated filter privileges.

1 16. The content filtering gateway of claim 14, wherein said memory further  
 2 comprises a user database containing login details for multiple users and  
 3 each user's associated filter privilege.

1 17. The content filtering gateway of claim 14, wherein said memory further  
 2 comprises authentication procedures.

1 18. A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer  
 2 system for content filtering, the computer program product comprising a  
 3 computer readable storage and a computer program stored therein, the  
 4 computer program comprising:  
 5 instructions for receiving a request for content from a client  
 6 computer, where said request includes a port number assigned to an  
 7 application program running on said client computer;  
 8 instructions for determining that said port number is a  
 9 predetermined port number associated with a request for content;  
 10 instructions for renumbering said request with a new port  
 11 number;  
 12 instructions for transmitting said request with said new port

13 number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for  
14 requests on said new port number; and  
15 instructions for obtaining from said content filtering server an  
16 indication of whether said content is restricted based on said request  
17 and said new port number.

1 19. A system for content filtering, comprising:  
2 at least one content server that stores content;  
3 at least one client computer configured to transmit a request for  
4 said content to said at least one content server, where said request  
5 contains an address of said content server and a port number  
6 associated with said request for said content ;  
7 a gateway coupled to said at least one client computer, where  
8 said gateway is configured to receive and renumber said request with  
9 a new rarely used port number associated with a filter privilege of a  
10 user of said at least one client computer;  
11 a content filtering server, configured to block restricted content  
12 based on said filter privilege; and  
13 a switch coupled to said gateway, said content filtering server,  
14 and said at least one content server, where said switch is configured to  
15 listen for said request on said rarely used port number and to redirect  
16 said request to said content filtering server.